



TESTIMONY

Submitted by Anellie Reed
Administrator, All Pointe Home Care

Appropriations Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed FY 24 Budget Adjustments for Human Services Agencies

March 1, 2023

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Lesser, Representative Gilchrist and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee Human Service Subcommittee. My name is Anellie Reed, Administrator of All Pointe HomeCare, a CT-licensed and Medicare accredited home health agency that offer skilled nursing, home health aide, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and social work services for patients in the home. We are best known for our commitment to caring for our most vulnerable patients in our community- those receiving Complex Care Nursing. The typical population of people we take care of are children and adults with tracheostomies, ventilator dependent patients with other co-morbidities such as seizure disorders, alteration in nutrition requiring gastrostomy feedings, non-verbal, non-ambulatory with numerous medications and medical treatments. These patients are ICU level patients who are being cared for in the home.

I respectfully request the Adult Complex Care in-home nursing Medicaid rate be increased to the current Pediatric Complex Care rate. There is currently a 21% disparity in the reimbursement rate between Children and Adults. It is shocking and incomprehensible that adults are not given the same consideration when it comes to the care they need. Why should adults be less deserving of quality home health care, specifically complex care nursing, than their younger counterparts? The complexities of caring for these individuals just grows as they get older. As the body ages, so do other vital organs. These individuals become more difficult to take care of and the likelihood of complications increase. Ensuring that they have qualified caregivers in the home decrease the risk of re-hospitalization, saving the State of Connecticut thousands of dollars in healthcare costs. In fact it's about a \$7000 per day difference.

Agencies such as ours are struggling to find qualified caregivers to take care of these very complex individuals. We simply can't compete with institution wages which draws nurses in that direction. An increase in rates would allow the agency to offer more competitive wages, thereby drawing nurses into this field of nursing. Other states recognize the value that programs such as ours bring to the state's bottom dollar and have instituted rate variations that address the additional costs to the agency such as overtime pay, holiday pay, weekend pay, and shift differential rates. Please increase adult complex care rates to the same level as pediatric.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

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